



Exit School of Architecture

Exhibition catalogue

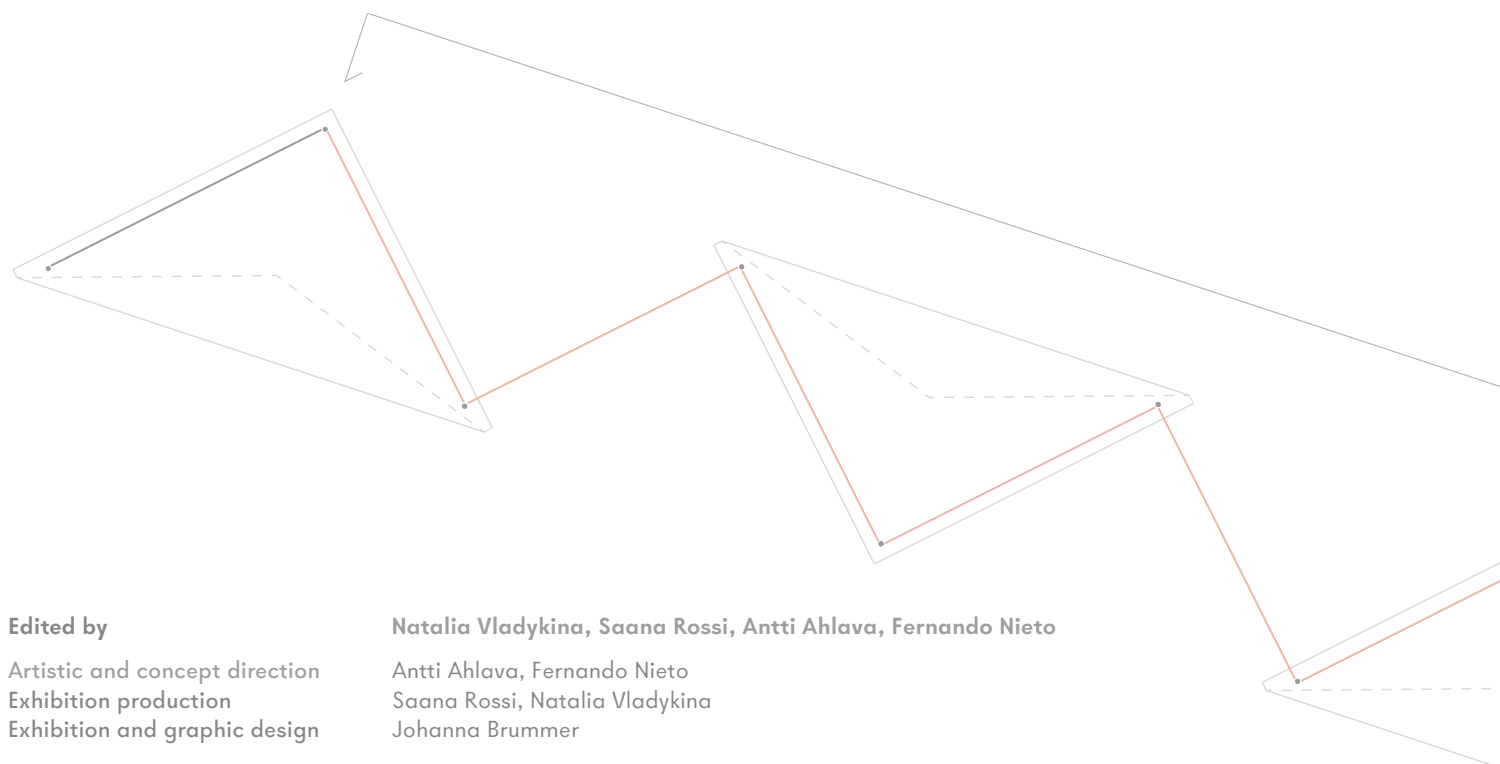


Aalto University



Exit School of Architecture

Exhibition catalogue



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**HUMAN
CITIES** / Challenging
the City Scale
2014–2018

Helsinki

Design

Week

Group X

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About

The Exit School of Architecture project examines shared local identities and meanings in new Finnish architecture. Which values and themes tie together users and designers, the private and the public? We looked at the works' participatory methods to find what aspects of local culture and aesthetics are embedded in the design process and the final product. The exhibition demonstrates shared social and aesthetic values and reasoning behind the present Nordic Noir architecture in Finland.

We present 14 recently completed projects and 6 diploma works that abandon standardized ways of building to find more meaningful, individual solutions to design problems in contemporary cities and landscapes while retaining shared aesthetic values of solitude, simplicity, and closeness to nature in materials and spatial expression.

The projects form two categories – projects that increase the well-being of the community, and projects that enhance one's contact to nature, which is tied to individual well-being. The works all emphasize calmness – they provide a place of safety, quietness and tranquility amidst the hustle of daily lives. Simultaneously they strengthen a person's relationship with their surroundings by creating stories through architecture.

The concept of Finnishness can be examined through the projects – what are the factors that tie Finns together, and how can these characteristics be materialized in a single building, or exported to create a Finnish experience abroad? All of the projects have their own answers, but the highlight falls on social well-being, quietness, and a deep respect and love for untouched nature.



Projects

We view participatory design as a narrative or a story-telling process, in which particular collaborative projects consciously or unconsciously link themselves to larger cultural stories at play in the society.



Kokoon Housing Units

Wood Program

Kokoon is a collection of stackable housing units designed by students of the Aalto University Wood Program to address the shortage of short-term housing in Finland. The pre-fabricated and transportable living modules can be grouped in different configurations, then easily taken apart and moved to the next location. They could provide a temporary home for a variety of groups in need of housing, from asylum seekers and refugees to students and families with apartments under renovation.

year
location
area
team

2016
Helsinki
11 m² / unit, 33 m² as installed
Alexander Barstad, Kristin Ekkerhau-
gen, Satoshi Iiyama, Nicklas Ivarsson,
Stephanie Jazmines, Yuko Konse, To-
moyo Nakamura, Taeho Noh, Käbi Noo-
damera Ramel, Maria León, Léa Pfister,
Ivan Segato, Ignacio Traver Lafuente,
Tanja Vallaster, Eduardo Wiegand Cruz,
Sini Koskinen, Toni Lahti, Akin Cakirog-
lu, Pekka Heikkinen, Philip Tidwell,
Willem van Bolderen
Tuomas Uusheimo

photo

**The small scale
and flexibility of
the project allows
for a large range
of configurations
to fit various
urban and sub-
urban contexts.**



A powerful spatial experience is essential for a modern library to attract visitors. Library spaces must inspire people to be active agents instead of just recipients of information and services.

Seinäjoki Library

JKMM Architects

The new Library was built to function together with the old library by Alvar Aalto in the architecturally remarkable environment of the cultural and administrative center of Seinäjoki. While the design pays homage to some core elements of Aalto's work, it doesn't lend details or shapes. It is a bold, contemporary statement designed to complement the heritage. There are many custom, integrated interior solutions, such as alcoves in the wall to read in, shelves to climb on, and a great stairwell intended for sitting and reading that connects the old library to the new.

| | |
|----------|--|
| year | 2012 |
| location | Seinäjoki |
| area | 4430 m ² |
| team | Asmo Jaaksi, Teemu Kurkela, Samuli Miettinen, Juha Mäki-Jyllilä, Aaro Martikainen, Teemu Toivio, Harri Lindberg, Päivi Meuronen |
| photo | Mika Huisman |



Olari Skate Park

Janne Saario

The Olari skatepark is in Espoo, on an open hill between two pedestrian paths with a 3-meter relief. Bedrock protrudes out of the ground on the site, reaching 5 meters at the middle of the hill, around which the park has been created. The park is terraced on several levels that lead the way down the hill and around the rock.

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| year | 2014 |
| location | Espoo |
| area | 1 600 m ² |
| photo | provided by the office |

The design process needed to be flexible as the excavation of the earth around the rock was done afterwards. The first plans were done based on core samples, and some guessing was required to find the shapes of the rock.



The modular, triangular grid roof created a playful lighting for the Pavilion, washing over the terrace during the course of the day.

WDC Pavilion

Wood Program

The World Design Capital Pavilion, designed by students of the Aalto University Wood Program, served as a central stage for the summer events of the Helsinki World Design Capital year 2012. The open and easily approachable pavilion created a lively venue on a formerly forgotten site between the Museum of Finnish Architecture and the Design Museum.

| | |
|----------|---|
| year | 2012 |
| location | Helsinki |
| area | 500 m ² |
| team | Pyry-Pekka Kantonen, Markus Heinonen, Marko Hämäläinen, Janne Kivelä, Wilhelmiina Kosonen, Inka Saini, Pekka Heikkinen, Hannu Hirsi, Risto Huttunen, Mikko Paakkanen, Karola Sahi, Ransu Helenius |
| photo | Tuomas Uusheimo |



Chapel of Silence

K2S Architects

The Kamppi Chapel is a haven of peace on the busy Narinkka square in central Helsinki. It offers a place to quiet down and compose oneself in one of Finland's most lively urban spaces. With its curved wood facade, the small sacral building flows into the city scape, posing a stark contrast to the nearby buildings. The chapel's gently shaped interior space embraces visitors and shields them from the bustling city life outside.

| | |
|----------|---|
| year | 2012 |
| area | 352 m ² |
| location | Helsinki |
| team | Kimmo Lintula, Niko Sirola, Mikko Summanen, Jukka Mäkinen, Kristian Forsberg, Abel Groenewolt, Tetsujiro Kyuma, Mikko Näveri, Miguel Pereira, Outi Pirhonen, Teija Tarvo, Elina Tenho, Jarno Vesa |
| photo | Tuomas Uusheimo |

The Chapel's warm atmosphere, created by the wooden walls, furnishings and indirect lighting, transports the visitor from the hustle of the outside world.



The otherwise underused park is enlivened by the garden and gardeners, who are employees and students of Aalto. The garden provides a meeting place for people from different cultures and walks of life.

Martti Levón's Park Urban Garden

Sofia Tigerstedt

The park was commissioned through a student competition as part of the World Design Capital 2012 program. One of the most important goals of the garden was to strengthen the spirit of the community of Aalto University. As the planning advanced, interested gardeners were invited to comment, suggest equipment needed for the garden, and finally to form the association that now governs the urban garden.

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| year | 2013 |
| area | 1,3 hectares |
| location | Otaniemi |
| photo | Sofia Tigerstedt |



Sauna Kotiranta

Lehtinen-Miettunen Architects

The site, where a lake, the rock face of a cliff, and the wooded garden meet, provided a possibility to create a building which emphasizes this connection – a person may experience and be part of the juncture between the different elements. The interface of the untouched nature and the building was made as narrow as possible.

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| year | 2012 |
| location | Lahti, Vesijärvi |
| area | 30 m ² |
| team | Lasse Lehtinen |
| photo | James Silverman |

The building was finished slowly – we were making a jewel, not an ordinary building, and we would not ruin it with a schedule.



This project was about resurrection, breaking new ground, healing wounds, making a fresh start, collaboration, cooperation, listening, site-specific sensitivity, efficiency, cost effective design – in short, about architecture.

Huize Looveld

Studio Puisto

This project started with a fire – a centuries-old family home in the Netherlands burned down overnight. When your house and possessions disappear, you are left without the things that make up your history and identity, without a home. The process of designing something together and being able to create a new future helped turn the mood around. The new house stands out in an environment of old white brick buildings, but it blends in perfectly with the surroundings of the trees and the fields.

| | |
|----------|---|
| year | 2014 |
| location | Duiven, The Netherlands |
| area | 210 m ² |
| team | Willem van Bolderen, Bas van Bolderen |
| photo | Marc Goodwin |



Ateljee Heikkilä

Rudanko-Kankkunen Architects

The brief for the building was to create a warehouse that also works well as a home and workplace for a designer. The building is like a piece of furniture - functional and simplistic. Wood was the natural choice for the material, since most of the designer's work is also made of wood.

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| year | 2013 |
| location | Korpilahti |
| area | 220 m ² |
| team | Anssi Kankkunen, Hilla Rudanko |
| photo | Maija Holma |

The users wanted an open layout, where the living quarters can slowly find their own form.



The garden is in a constant state of change, and it will disappear unless routinely refurbished with decaying material.

Lahokehä Decaying Garden

Sofia Tigerstedt

Nowadays forests in Finland are mostly actively maintained economical forests, and the lack of decaying material and the nutrients they provide has caused many species to become endangered. The garden was designed to raise awareness of the importance of decaying material as a part of any ecosystem, and it was realised in the middle of a popular walking route by a volunteer team made up of university staff and students. The garden provides a natural final deposit for local organic waste from outdoor area upkeep work, and a QR-code in one of the stumps provides visitors information about the project.

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| year | 2012 |
| location | Otaniemi |
| team | Sofia Tigerstedt, Kimmo Heikkinen |
| photo | Sofia Tigerstedt |



Viewpoint Pavilion

Aarti Ollila Ristola Architects

Nature in a truly natural state is crucial for the endangered living conditions of wildlife in metropolitan areas, which is something Camley Street Natural Park provides for the Greater London area and Viewpoint pavilion aims to celebrate. It is actively used by local schools to get children in touch with nature, as well as for organizing gatherings of the local community. The geometry of the pavilion is inspired by primitive shelters traditionally used in Scandinavian forests, called “laavu”, blending into their surroundings and offering a place to observe nature without disturbing it.

| | |
|----------|---|
| year | 2014 |
| location | London |
| team | Erkko Aarti, Mikki Ristola, Arto Ollila |

Through its architectural storytelling, the pavilion addresses the relationship between man and nature, and the cultural exchange between Finland and the United Kingdom.



The group behind the project was very involved on the building site, helping with all kinds of work. This caused a close bond to form among the group and between people and their homes, when their own handiwork could be seen on the facade.

Violanpuisto Apartments

Viivi Snellman and Marcus Ahlman

Violanpuisto is a joint building venture, where 11 families (including the two architects) came together to create their own homes in Helsinki. The three new buildings were to form a simple, beautiful and sustainable whole with an older existing building on the site. At the core of the design was the flow between the shared and the private spaces. The shared gardens and patios were to link private indoor areas together. The aim was to simultaneously create a joyful community and homes which offer peace and privacy when needed.

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| year | 2008 |
| location | Helsinki |
| photo | Johannes Laiho |



Four Corner House

Avanto Architects

Our basic idea is to provide an example of a sustainable cottage. The building is insulated well and heated by wood from our own forest, and electricity is provided by the sun. There is a vegetable and herb garden and in the Vaskivesi lake one can catch pike-perch. The simple and ascetic life at the countryside differs dramatically from the hectic city life and provides a possibility to live a life with a minimum impact to the nature.

| | |
|----------|---|
| year | 2010 |
| location | Virrat |
| area | 78m ² + sauna 24 m ² |
| team | Ville Hara, Anu Puustinen |
| photos | kuvio.com |

“The design started only after I had spent two years’ worth of free time on the island carefully studying the plot. In the end, the villa became a device to watch nature through cropped views.”



“Through the shared design process, we came to understand each other – and it also taught me about my own aspirations. A collaborative design process always teaches one to communicate better.”

Villa Samurai

helsinkiurich

The user and the designer had a shared aim of creating something radical and spectacular together. The values, which we shared, were a sort of liberal experimentalism combined with a sensitivity to the existing building on the site. The old building was black, and the addition turned out to be a little bit odd, in a Nordic way – simultaneously bohemian and ascetic. Because the client built the project himself, it was necessary to use simple construction techniques. The client also had a fear of heights, so we made an innovation: the giant roof was first built on a horizontal plane and then, using hinges, gradually turned upright.

| | |
|----------|--|
| year | 2015 |
| location | Kangasala |
| area | 100 m ² |
| team | Antti Ahlava, Teddy Pauly, Lauri Eklund, Lauri Salminen |
| photo | Antti Ahlava |



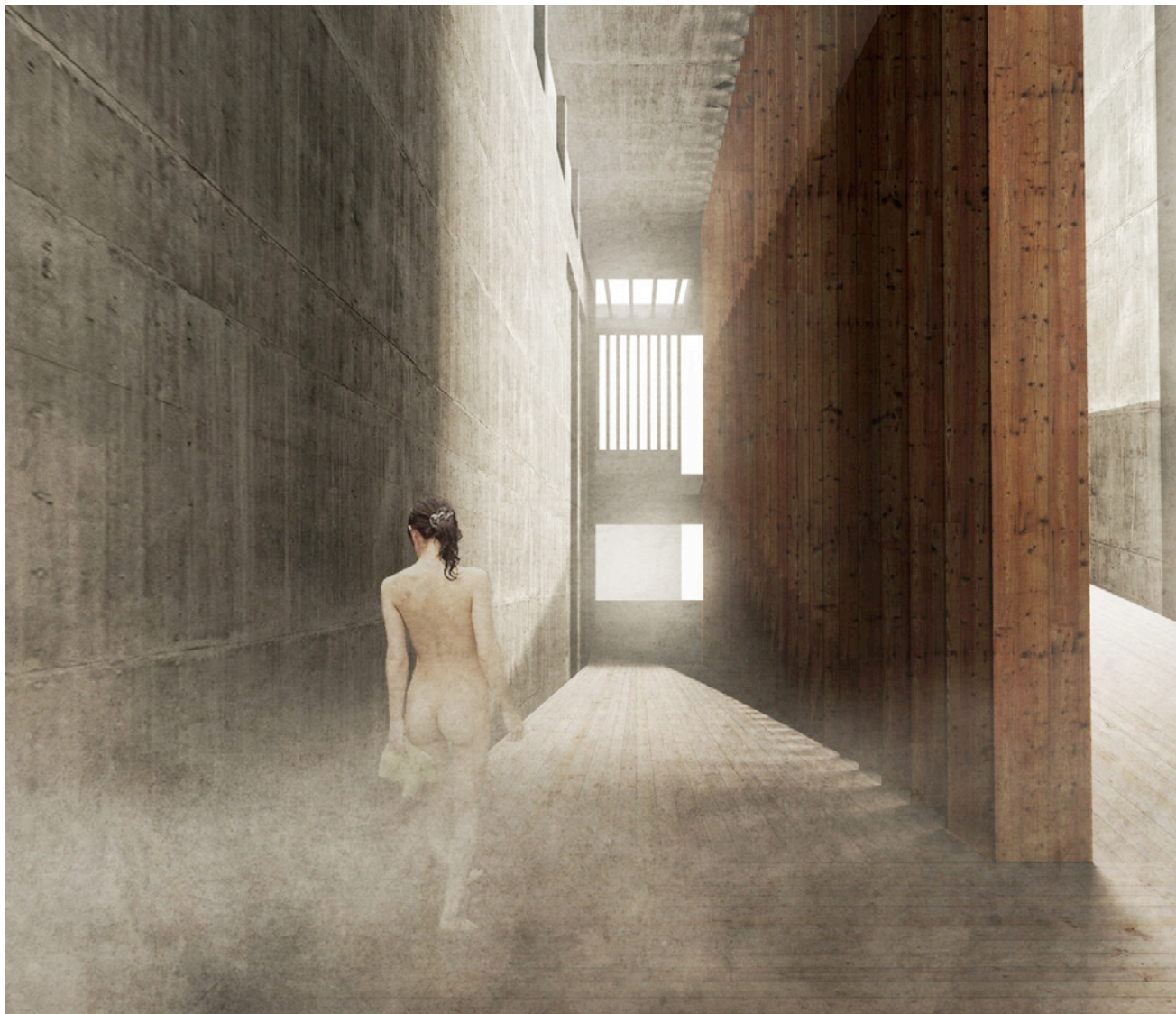
Pyramiden Afterlife

Diploma work by Anastasia Glukhova

The project's approach to Svalbard's revitalisation is to create a growing-shrinking dynamic scenario following the natural yearly cycles of the town. The project includes a festival strategy, a temporary reuse concept and a new building design proposal. The building design concept is to create a black box based performance space but with a strong transparency in order to embrace the environment. During the summer the building can host up to 250 users while in the winter only a small part is heated and used for sleeping and working for up to 5 people. A key goal is the involvement of the local population and especially those formerly employed by coal company.

year 2016
location Svalbard,
Norway

The idea of temporality is crucial in the project. Instead of conserving the town and its history as a static entity, the concept is rather to fill the places with new stories that would create connections to existing memories and inherent qualities of the town.



It would not be correct to speak of a “shared cultural background” or “shared Finnishness” as such, but rather coincidental cultural common ground or cultural hotspots shared between two widely different cultures.

Suomi-Chō

Diploma work by Olli Vuorinen

Suomi-cho is an attempt to find solutions for redevelopment between the kind of large-scale urban renewal often seen in Japan and individual building, in a way that is site-specific, respectful and interesting. The project could also be seen as an architectural reflection of both the psychological and historical processes of intercultural interaction. The fundamental challenge is to create something international through the particular and the local, not through the generic and the commercial.

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| year | 2014 |
| location | Tokyo, Japan |



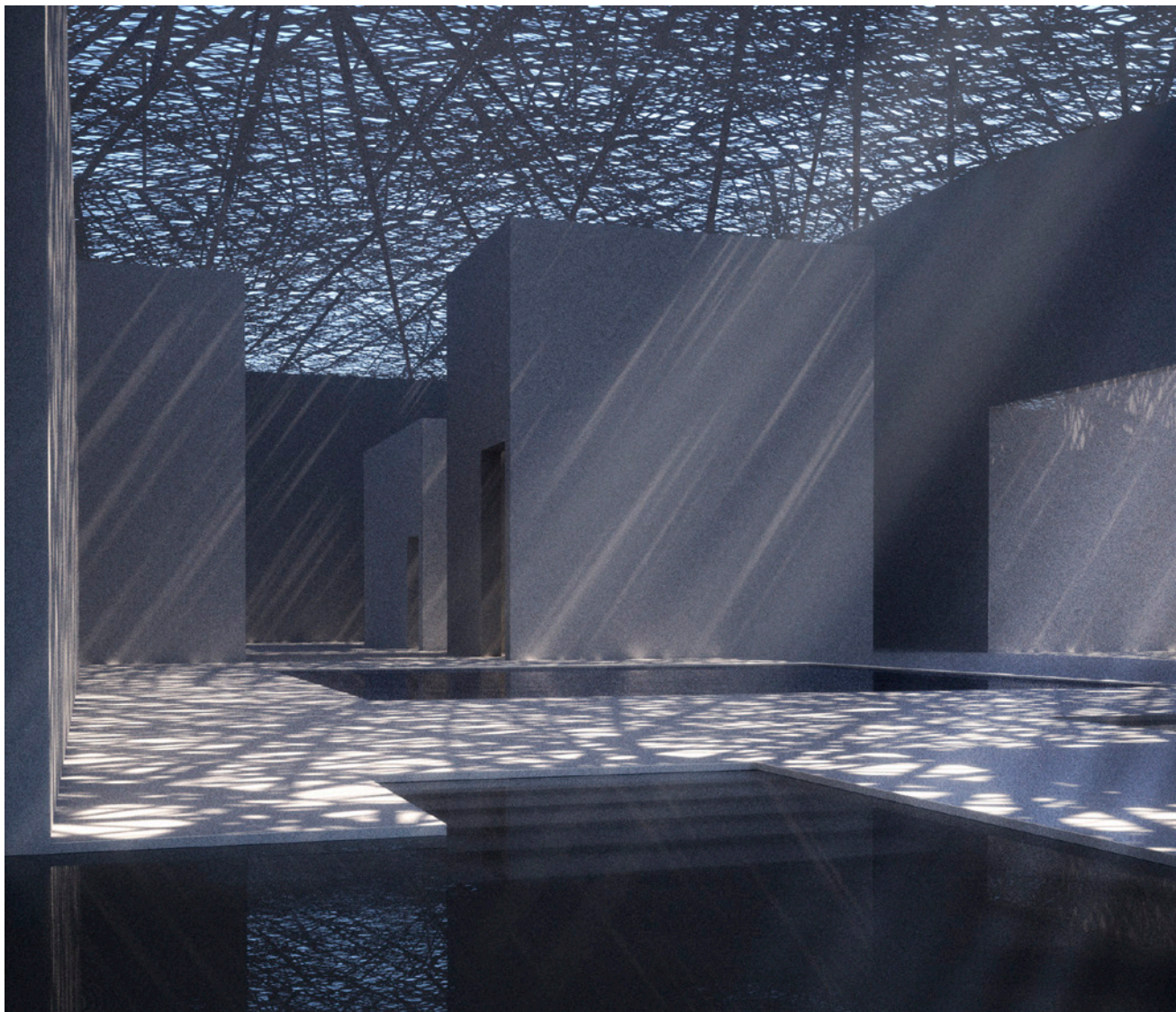
Jätkäsaari Art Museum

Diploma work by Samuli Summanen

The art museum project was made to enliven city culture in the new neighborhood of Jätkäsaari. In the open, oversized ground floor Piazza, events that invigorate the community can be held – for example pop-up exhibitions and flea markets. The area inside and around the museum is intended to be an open meeting space for people from all backgrounds and age groups.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| year | 2015 |
| location | Helsinki |

The building breathes in and out to the city – you can see through the building, so the buzzing vibe extends to the area surrounding it.



Bathing as a ritual and a communal event is universal, and different versions of saunas have existed for several millennia. Every Finn will take their guest, especially a foreign one, to a sauna.

Taivalsaari Spa and Hotel

Diploma work by Christopher Delany

The form of the hotel and spa is an organic mass, which mirrors the contours of the surroundings and the waves of the sea. The vertical pattern on the large glass areas of the façade have been inspired by the Finnish pine forest, one of which can be found south of the spa and hotel. The light streaming through the semi-transparent roof adds to the mystical experience of the spa reminiscent of the semi-darkness of a Finnish sauna.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| year | 2010 |
| location | Helsinki |



Örebro Skate Park

Janne Saario

The site is in the park area of Drottningpark. It is on the outskirts of the center, next to a high school and a historical cemetery. The pleasant green environment is an ideal location for a large concrete skate park. In the beginning of the design process, we held a workshop with local skaters. The youngsters wished for a unique and outstanding skate park, which they provided quite detailed ideas for.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| year | 2015 |
| location | Örebro, Sweden |
| area | 3500 m ² |
| sculptures and art | Zunino |
| photo | Ignestam Studio provided by the office |

“There are silent folks nearby, buried in the cemetery. Next to it we’ll build a skate park with large concrete holes, where young people will spend the time of their lives bouncing, whizzing and gliding on the surfaces. The area between the pits will be treated to look like an old, cracked sidewalk. Wait long enough, and time will do its duty.”



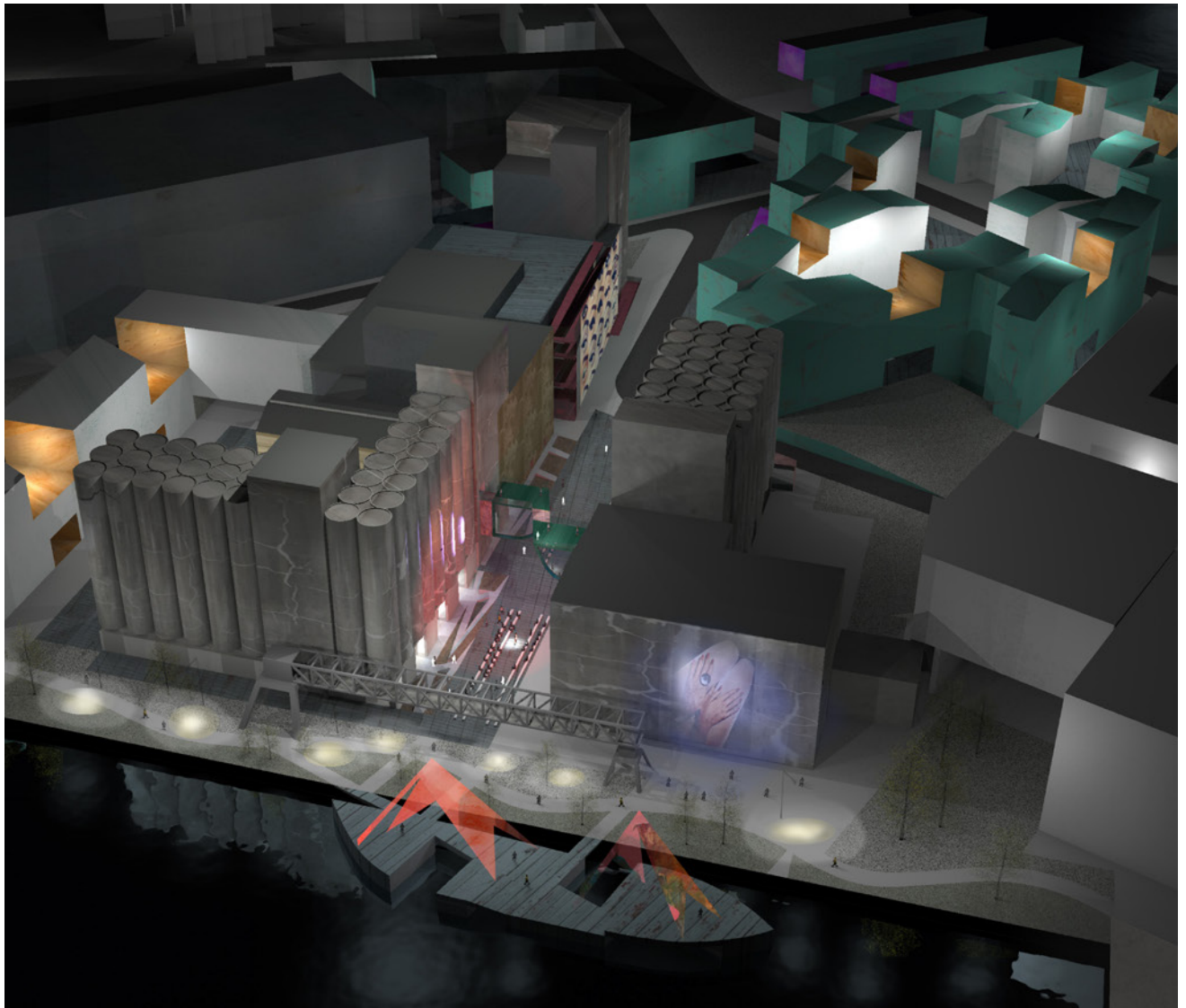
With the client's support and interaction, unique solutions can be found. Codesign requires empathy and understanding, but also valuing and defending your own ideas.

Kuhmo Luonnon lumo

Diploma work by Jussi Ukkonen

The experiential nature of the project is based on exposure to changing seasons and unpredictable weather conditions. The rational, modular architecture of the vacation property is subjected to the vastness of the woods. During the design process, both parties reflected on the project from their own perspective, and the final result was influenced by the dynamic of the collaboration.

| | |
|----------|-------|
| year | 2014 |
| location | Kuhmo |



Fashion House

Diploma work by Lilli Maunula

The diploma work explores possibilities to unite and strengthen the Finnish fashion scene using the tools of urban design. The location of the project is an abandoned grain store in Munkkisaari, and the goal was to prove that fashion culture and events could act as a powerful energizer in the capital of Finland. The intention was also to promote co-working between local fashion companies in partly shared spaces to aid the growth of the Finnish fashion industry. This was somewhat contradicted by the prevalence of trade secrets such as contacts to buyers and suppliers.

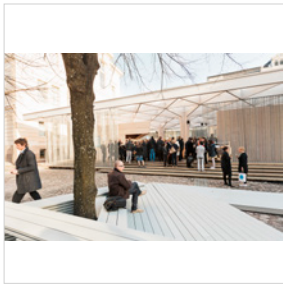
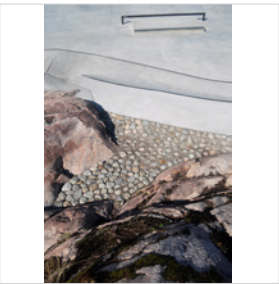
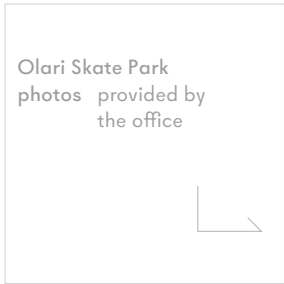
year 2013
location Helsinki

The fashion industry is dynamic and constantly evolving, so temporary structures and installations are natural and suitable for shows and marketing purposes.

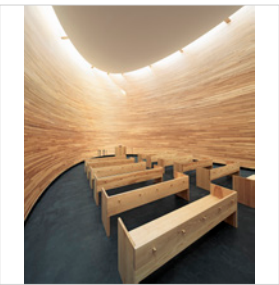
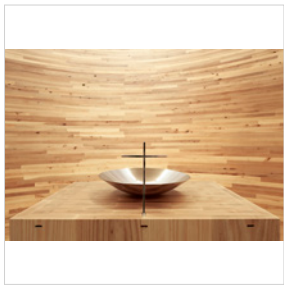
Project photos

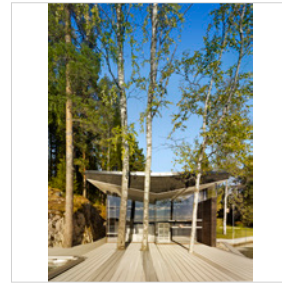
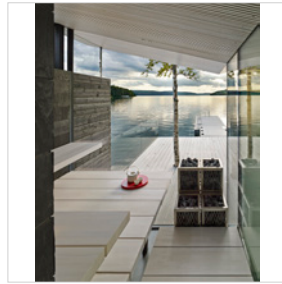
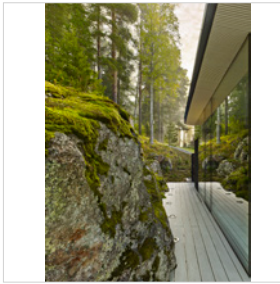


Seinäjoki Library
photos Mika Huisman,
Tuomas Uusheimo



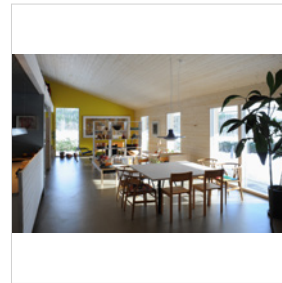
WDC Pavilion
photos Tuomas Uusheimo





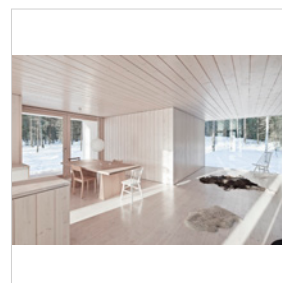
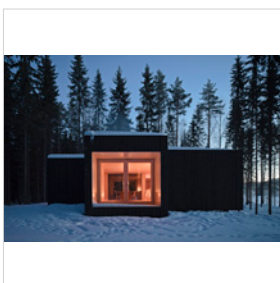
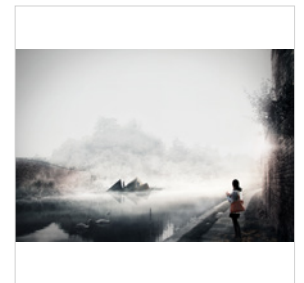
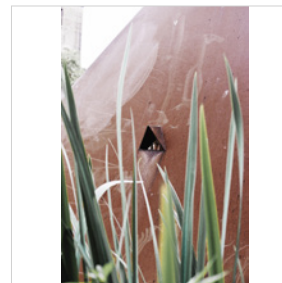
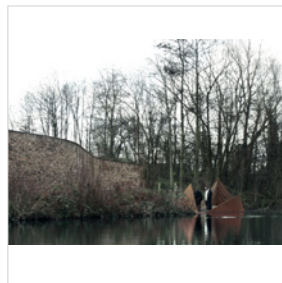
Sauna Kotiranta
photos James Silverman

Martti Levón's Park
Urban Garden
photos Sofia Tigerstedt



Ateljee Heikkilä
photos Maija Holma

Viewpoint Pavilion
photos Max Creasy,
John Sturrock



Four Corner House
photos kuvio.com



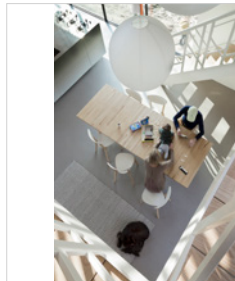
Pyramiden Afterlife
photos Anastasia Glukhova

Lahokehä Decaying Garden
photos Sofia Tigstedt



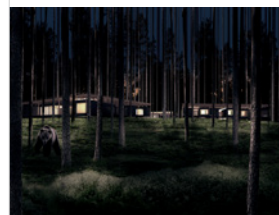
Viola Park Apartments
photos Johannes Laiho

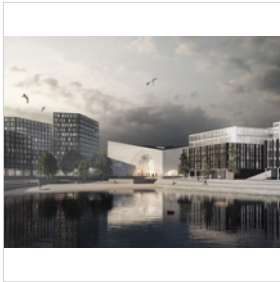
Kokoon Housing Units
photos Tuomas Uusheimo,
Marc Goodwin,
Juho Haavisto



Huize Looveld
photos Marc Goodwin

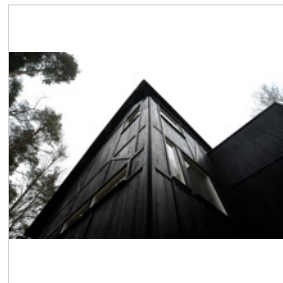
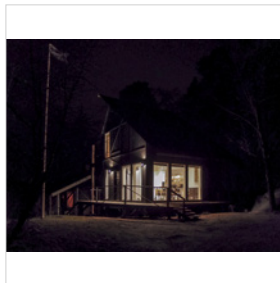
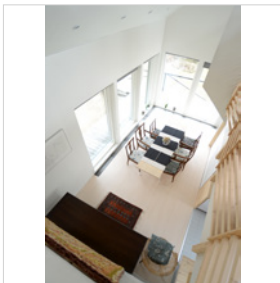
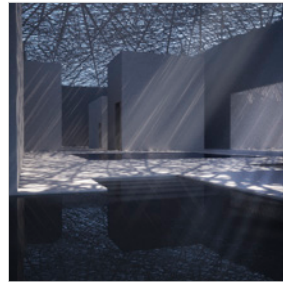
Kuhmo Luonnon Lumo
photos Jussi Ukkonen



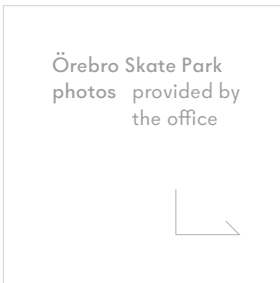


Jätkäsaari Art Museum
photos Samuli Summanen

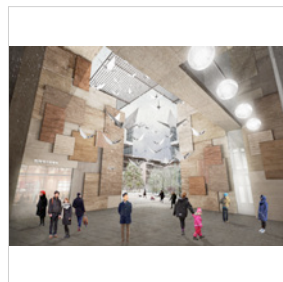
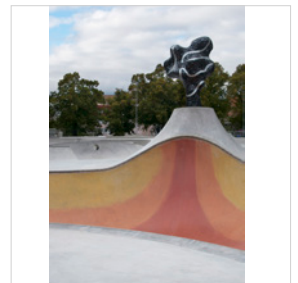
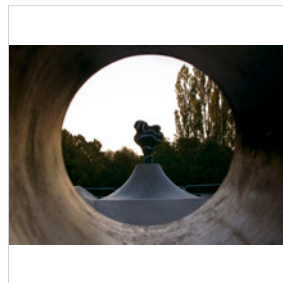
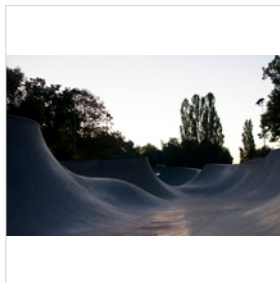
Taivalsaari Spa and Hotel
photos Christopher Delany



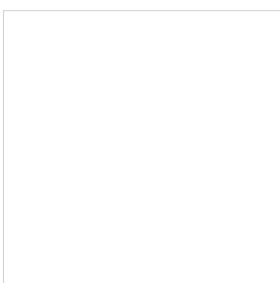
Villa Samurai
photos Antti Ahlava



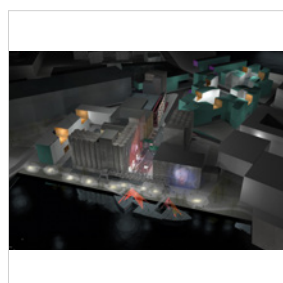
Örebro Skate Park
photos provided by
the office

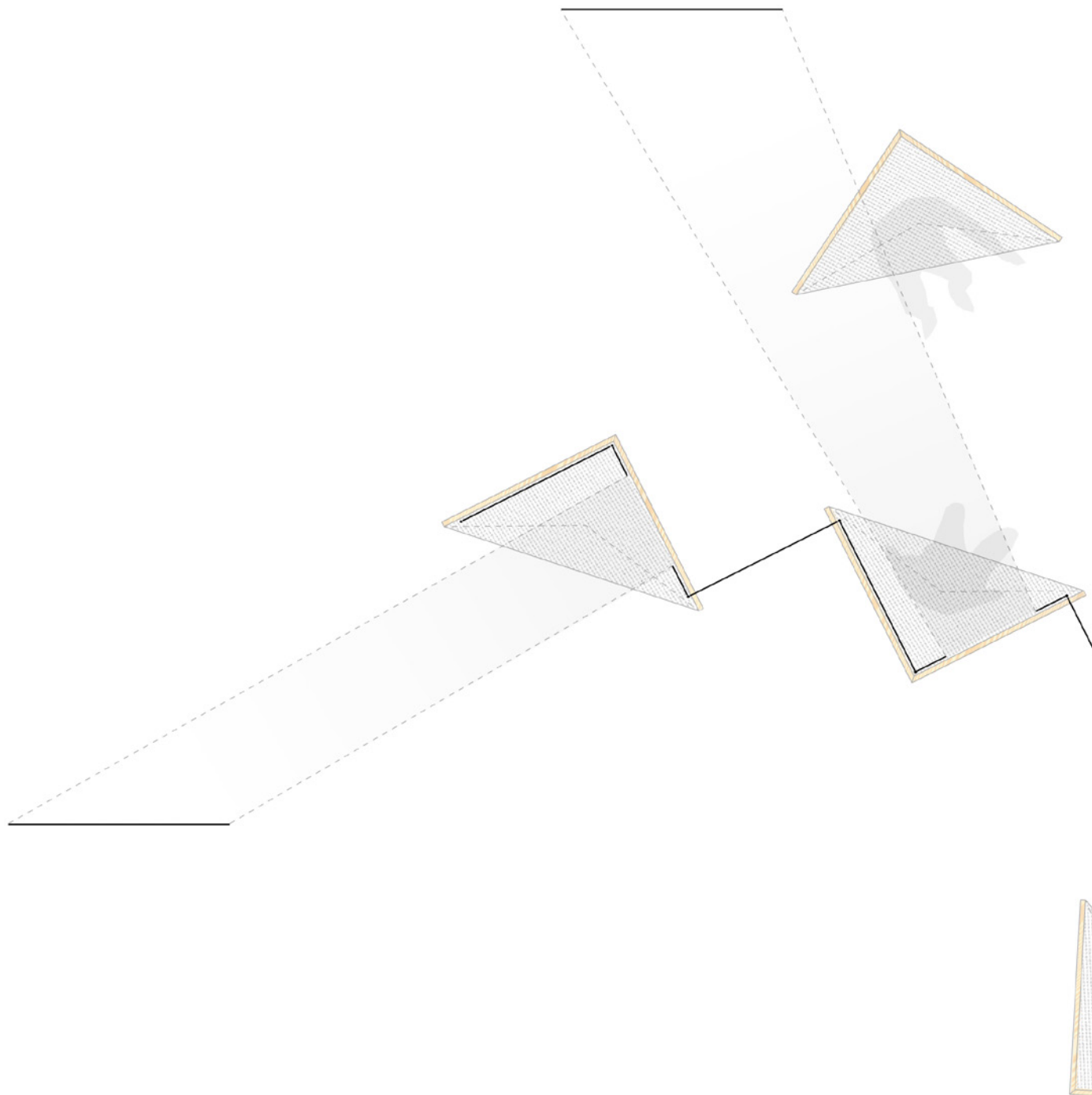


Suomi-Cho
photos Olli Vuorinen



Fashion House
photos Lilli Maunula



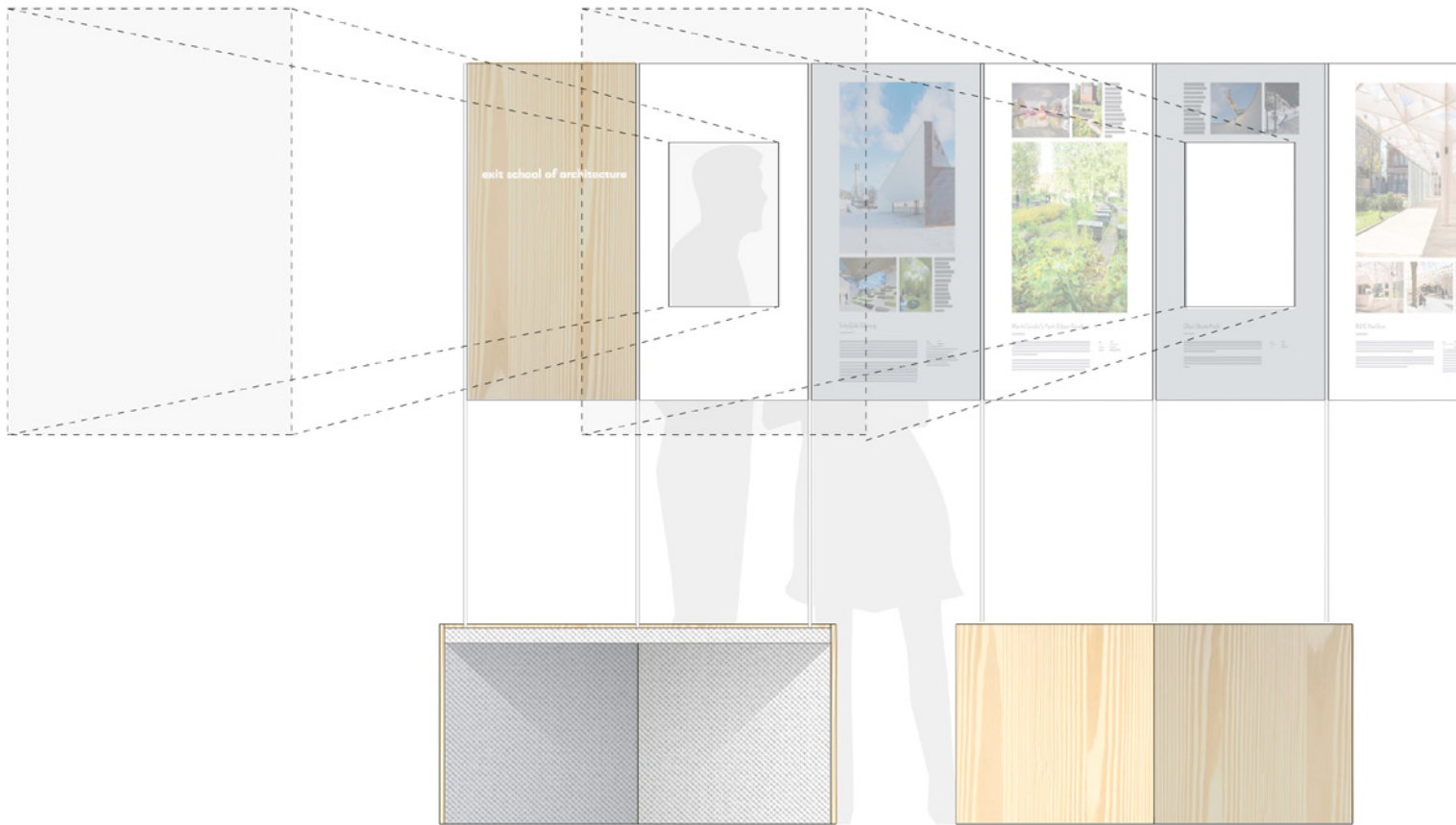


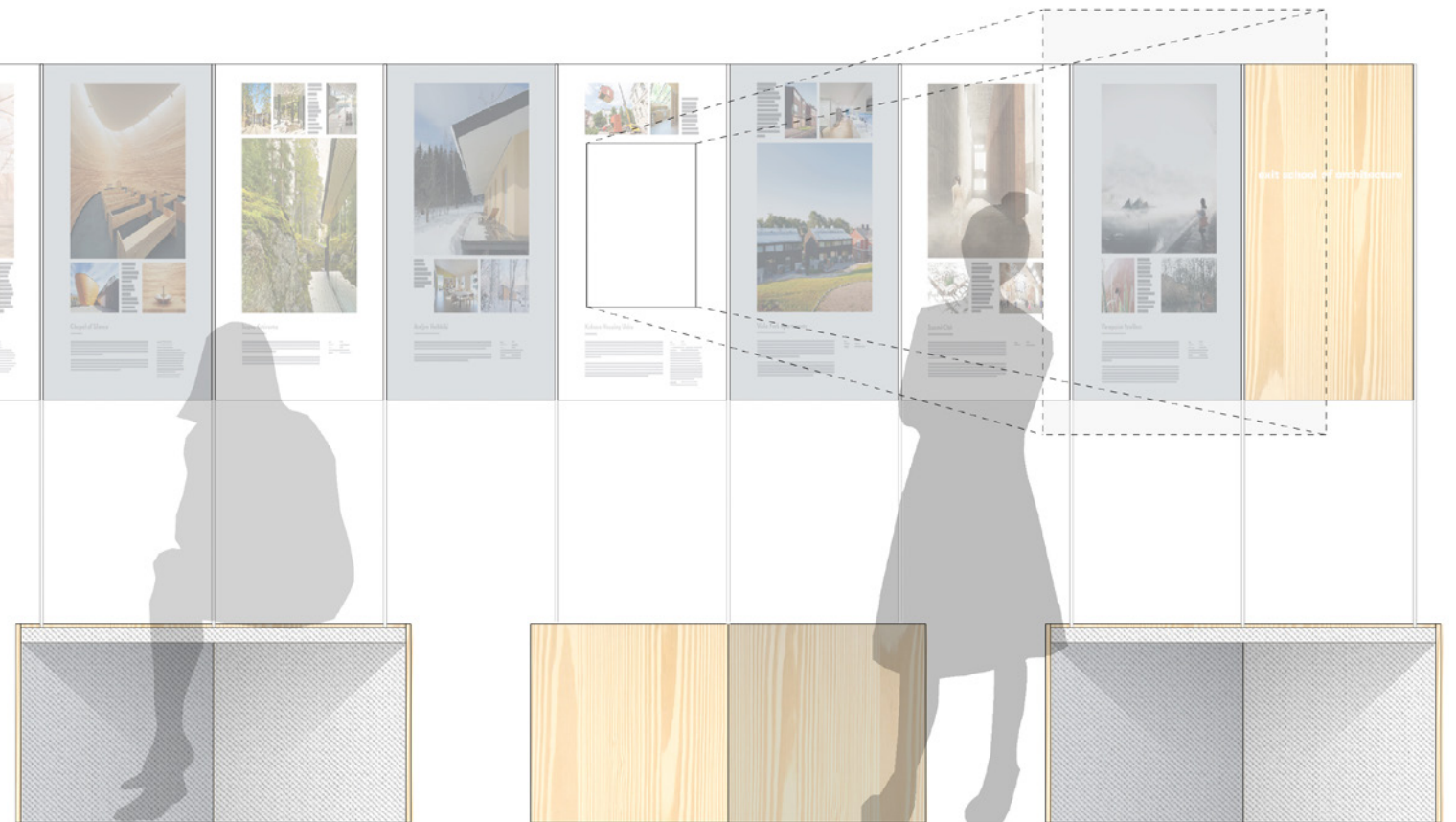
Exhibition

Exit School of Architecture - exhibition takes the form of an unfolding book, taking apart divergent histories and multiple viewpoints on architecture in order to weave them back together to form a new whole. In the spirit of the projects exhibited, the architecture of the exhibition transforms its location into a place to linger, inviting the visitor to pull up a chair and contemplate their surroundings.

Exhibition Plan







Exhibition Frontal View

0 20 50 100cm



exit school of architecture





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